

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BRANCH WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

November 18, 2015

CONTROLLED CORRESPONDENCE STATUS

Traci received confirmation that our 2 CMS items from 4th graders to the EPA Administrator re Long Island Sound invasive species due Oct 6 & 7 were closed out last week.

INDIAN NATION CONSULTATIONS

No news.

COASTAL RESILIENCY

Meeting with Hudson River Park Trust: At the request of the Hudson River Park Trust, Bob Nyman and Rick Balla will meet with Noreen Doyle from the Trust, as well as its consultants and outside legal counsel, on November 20 to discuss the Trust's proposed Pier 54 project. (Contact: Bob Nyman)

SUFFOLK COUNTY NUTRIENTS

No news.

AGRICULTURE

No news.

NEW YORK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SECTION

No news.

NEW JERSEY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SECTION

North American Lake Management Society: EPA Headquarters, Region 2 and the former Project Manager from the City of Syracuse will present their paper on the Skaneateles Lake Alternative Wastewater Demonstration Project at the North American Lake Management Society meeting on November 18 in Saratoga Springs, New York. Seth Ausubel is the speaker for the overall opening plenary session. Contact: Donna Somboonlakana)

303(d) Program: On November 10 the EPA approved the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) 2014 list of water quality limited waters (303(d) list) with priority ranking for Total Maximum Daily Load development. The USVI 2014 303(d) list contains 196 assessment unit/pollutant combinations. Fourteen of these combinations are new additions to the list. The most common pollutants causing impairment include: turbidity (34.18% of impairments); dissolved oxygen (23.47%); pathogens (22.45%) and pH (12.25%). The USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources delisted 11 combinations for Turbidity/Color because they were previously listed in error. The original listing decision was incorrect because these 11 waters are exempt from the color and turbidity criteria based on the USVI Water Quality Standards Turbidity/Color Exemption (Title 12 Chapter 7 Section 186-11(b)). (Contact: Brent Gaylord)

New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP): Citizens Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 26 in Newark, NJ. The schedule and format for revisions to the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and Action Agenda were discussed, in addition to gathering input regarding the audiences for “listening sessions.” On the legislative front, a federal microbead-free waters act has been introduced by Representative Pallone and a bill to overturn the oyster ban in New Jersey passed but contains amendments that continue to severely limit research. HEP reported out on its citizen science and litter survey projects. HEP gave a presentation of its public access assessment project which includes an extensive GIS mapping component. (Contact: Rick Winfield)

Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Council (HREMAC): The HREMAC met at Norrie Point, NY on November 12. The Committee provided a report out on an impressive level of public involvement including the “Hudson River Ramble,” which had over 50,000 attendees and “A Day in the Life of the Hudson,” which involved over 6,000 students. HREMAC has 32 lesson plans for students and plans to integrate them with interactive tools, video links and their social media efforts. HREMAC’s 2015 Action Agenda has been finalized. Report out on the striped bass and shad fisheries indicated some encouraging but non-conclusive results. (Contact: Rick Winfield)

Urban Waters Federal Partners Meeting: New Jersey Watershed Management Section (in cooperation with our colleagues from Superfund, the lead for the Passaic River Urban Waters pilot) will host a combination Urban Waters grantee presentation and Bronx-Harlem Federal Partners meeting on November 24. Presentations will be given by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and Groundwork Elizabeth. (Contact: Donna Somboonlakana).

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Webinar: On November 13, the Watershed Management Branch hosted a webinar to aid the four Region 2 National Estuary Programs (NEPs) now embarking on CCMP revisions. Presentations by Mark Tedesco, Long Island Sound Program Director, and Javier Laureano, San Juan Bay Estuary Program Director, covered their programs’ experiences and lessons learned. The four regional NEPs which are revising their CCMPs (Barnegat Bay, Delaware Estuary, New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary, and Peconic Estuary) engaged the Directors in an in-depth discussion. (Contact: Nesmarie Negron)

WETLANDS PROTECTION SECTION

New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership Meeting: On November 6, Wetlands Section staff attended the New Jersey Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) meeting in Trenton. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin was also in attendance. The CWRP is a partnership of private corporations, federal and state government, conservation organizations and academia formed to restore, preserve, enhance and protect aquatic habitats throughout New Jersey. To date, CWRP has received more than \$300,000 in contributions and pledges of in-kind services from its corporate partners. These donations have aided in the preservation, restoration, enhancement and protection of more than 178 acres and 13 stream miles and numerous educational programs. (Contact Bob Montgomerie)

LONG ISLAND SOUND OFFICE

Long Island Sound Futures Fund: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) held a press event announcing the 2015 Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant awards on November 12 at Stratford Point in Stratford, Connecticut. U.S. Senators Christopher Murphy and Richard Blumenthal, and U.S.

Representatives Jim Himes and Rosa DeLauro were presenters at the event. EPA Regional Administrator Curt Spalding, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Assistant Regional Director Paul Phifer and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Quality Mike Sullivan also spoke. NFWF announced twenty-two grant awards totaling \$1.3 million. The grants leverage \$2.1 million from the recipients themselves, resulting in \$3.4 million in funding for on-the-ground, hands-on conservation projects in Connecticut and New York. Projects will reach more than 130,000 citizens through environmental and conservation programs and allow nearly 1.7 million gallons of water to be treated through water quality improvement projects. (Contact: Mark Tedesco)



Senators Blumenthal (left) and Murphy (center), and RA Spalding (right).

Long Island Sound Nitrogen Reduction Strategy: We have scheduled the fourth of a series of Region 1 and 2 technical meetings on the Long Island Sound nitrogen reduction strategy for November 23. The Region 1 and 2 Regional Administrators have scheduled a call for November 24 to discuss the strategy and its rollout to states and the public. (Contact: Mark Tedesco)

Social Media Strategy on Plan Release: Long Island Sound Study staff have been tracking the use of social media in amplifying messaging around the release of the 2015 Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan on October 22. We will continue to use social media messaging for four weeks after the plan's release. Long Island Sound Study staff will hold a conference call with EPA regional staff involved in developing social media strategy to discuss the tracking results and lessons learned. (Contact: Mark Tedesco)